

# Chapter 3

## South Carolina's Energy Situation

South Carolina is a growing state. As our economy has developed, so too have our energy needs. In the last several decades, only four states have had higher energy use rates than we in South Carolina have had.

### How do we use energy?

While we use energy in every sector of the economy, industry uses the most. It takes large supplies of energy to run the mills, factories and farms that make our state prosper. Industry accounts for 41.4 percent of the state's energy use.

The transportation sector is the second largest user of energy. Being primarily a rural state, this is not surprising. We are, by necessity, a state of drivers. People in South Carolina travel extended distances to get where they need to go. It takes nearly two billion gallons of gasoline a year to keep South Carolinians on the move!

We use less energy in our homes. Almost 19.5 percent of the energy used in South Carolina serves to heat and cool residences, run appliances and heat swimming pools.

The commercial sector uses the least amount of energy. While this is true in most of the 50 states, South Carolina's commercial sector uses proportionately even less. Only 14 percent of the state's energy is used by businesses, schools and hospitals.

The charts shown on the following page illustrate how South Carolinians use energy in each of the four sectors of the economy.

### South Carolina's Current Energy Picture

Now that you know how energy is used in our state, you may wonder what energy resources we have.

Unfortunately, the answer is not encouraging. South Carolina does not have any conventional energy resources of its own. The oil, coal, natural gas and uranium that make our economy grow must be imported from other states and countries. This carries a heavy price. It costs great sums of money to pay for the energy we need and use.

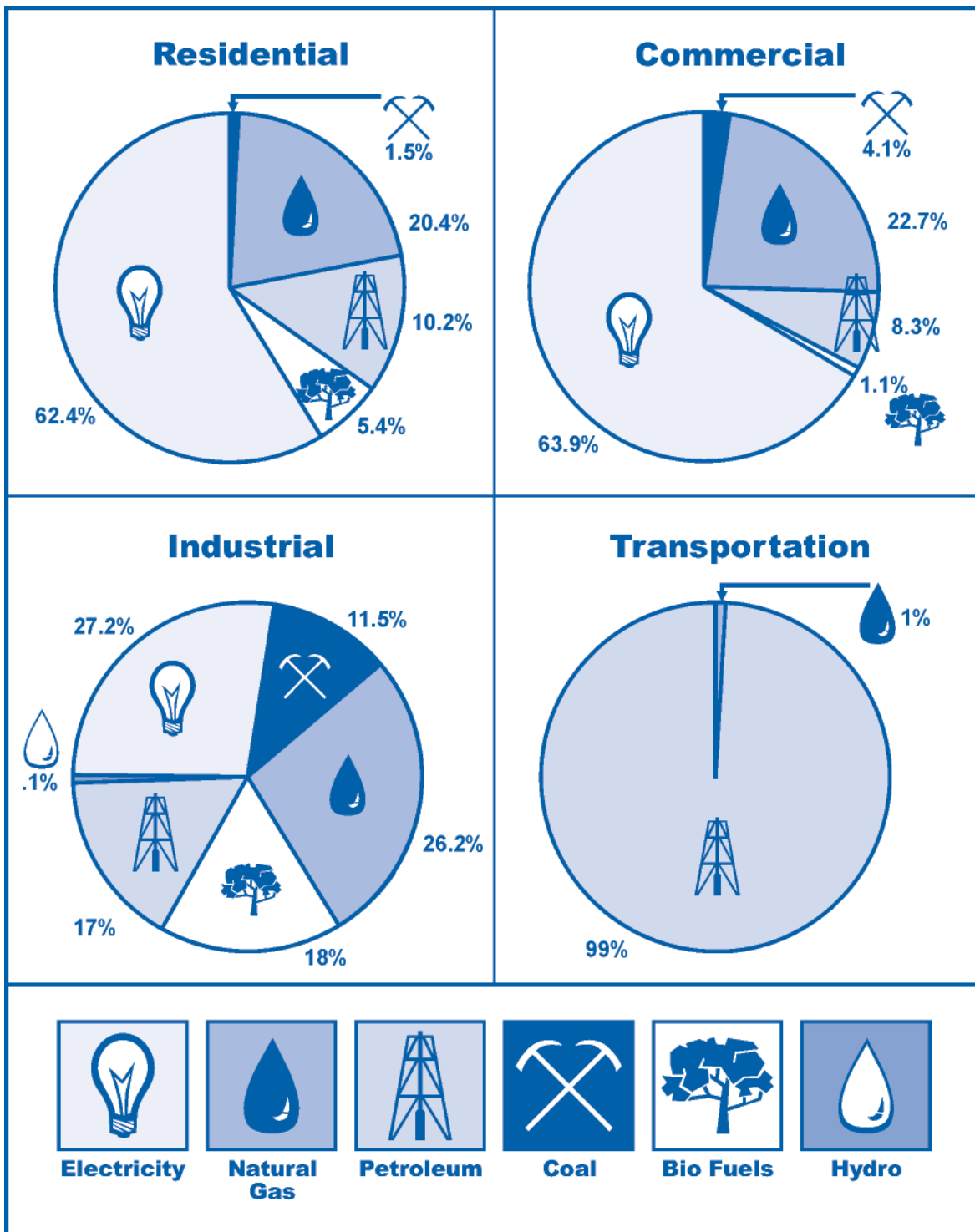


Our energy outlook, however, is far from dim. While we can't do anything about our lack of fossil fuels and uranium, we can do something to make us less dependent on expensive, imported fuels. With this in mind, state officials and citizens alike are actively seeking ways to improve our energy situation.

Through science and conservation, we are now using proportionally less fossil fuels. About 37 percent of the state's energy needs are met by energy resources other than fossil fuels, much better than the national average of 14.4 percent.

In the remaining chapters of "The Energy Factbook," you'll be able to read about the exciting advances being made in South Carolina. These include experiments with new fuels as well as widespread use of nuclear energy. South Carolina is diligently looking for ways to make its energy future a bright one.

# South Carolina's Net Energy Consumption by Sector



SOURCE: 2001 South Carolina Energy Use Profile